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Annual Report

AS TO THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Depwade Rural District

FOR THE YEAR

— 1920 —

BY

FREDERICK N. H. MAIDMENT,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

HARLESTON :

A. H. CANN, MARKET PLACE.



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The Annual Report

For the Year **1920** of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HARLESTON,

March, 1921.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my seventh Annual Report upon your Sanitary District.

The population of your district in the census 1911 was 19,934, this is now estimated at 18,652.

The physical characters of the area of 79,742 acres of which your district is composed is that of flat or slightly undulating land, sparsely but fairly evenly populated. The subsoil is heavy clay, with certain areas having a substratum of gravel, lying on chalk. The River Waveney forms the southern boundary of the area. The occupations of the community of the district are almost entirely dependent upon agriculture.

Physical Features

The amount of Out-door Poor Law Relief for the year throughout the District is £3,930 5s. 11d.

Poor Law

Hospital

There is no hospital or sanatorium accommodation in the district excepting for one small "emergency" operating room at Harleston. Practically the whole district relies upon Norwich for its Hospital accommodation.

Water Supply

There is no Public Water Supply in your district. Harleston is the only place of sufficient size to merit the consideration of a proper supply of water from mains. The larger houses and factories obtain good water from deep wells and borings. The cottages in the outlying villages depend largely upon ponds and pits. Twelve samples of water from wells have been analysed. The results being as follows :—

- 6 passed as potable
- 2 referred for the examination of adjoining drains
- 3 referred for cleaning
- 1 condemned

New Wells have been sunk in the following parishes by private owners.

- 3 at Forncett St. Peter.
- 1 „ Rushall.
- 1 „ Thorpe Abbotts.

The District Council have sunk **N**ew Wells in connection with their Housing Schemes at Harleston, Brockdish, Pulham Mary, Pulham Market, Stratton St. Mary, Stratton St. Michael, Tacolnestone, Forncett St. Peter, Dickleburgh, Carleton Rode, Moulton, Aslacton, Tivetshall, Tharston.

A New Public Well is being sunk at Piccadilly Corner, Alburgh, and steps are being taken to sink a well at Denton.

Harleston. These have been repaired in several Sewers places and when opened the brickwork shows signs of decay. Where the sewerage discharges into the Beck, and also a considerable length of the Beck itself has been thoroughly cleaned out at a cost of about £20.

Pulham Mary. Here the Sewer has been unblocked and repaired.

Dickleburgh. The open Sewer here at the back of the street has been thoroughly cleaned out and about nine yards of the culvert has been re-built.

There is no system of Public Scavenging in your Scavenging district. Refuse is collected by private contract and there is no regular or proper method of disposal in use. I again beg to draw your attention to this point as it is particularly necessary in Harleston, where a system was suggested to the Parish Conncil, but was not approved.

Reports on the condition of Cottages have been Inspections made as follows :—

- 3 cottages at Hapton—2 unfit for habitation,
1 needing repairs.
- 1 cottage at Hardwick unfit for habitation.
- 2 cottages at Denton, repairs needed.
- 1 cottage at Brockdish, unfit.
- 2 cottages at Denton, passed as fit for habitation.

A number of these have been made resulting in many notices being served for such things as ;—

Structural repairs.

Improvements and Repairs to old Drains.

Laying of New Drains.

Improvements to Old Privies.

Construction of New Pail Closets.

Cleaning out of Ditches and Ponds.

As there is still a great difficulty in getting skilled workmen and also materials, the notices have not been complied with as speedily as they otherwise would be, but there are cases where Statutory Notices have had to be served and they are as follows :—

Statutory
Notices

1. Mr. G. Mann, Starston—Drains and Privies at Dickleburgh.
2. Mrs. Rosanna Day, Pulham Mary—Drains and Privies at Pulham Mary.
3. Mrs. Rosanna Day, Pulham Mary—Structural Repairs at Pulham Mary.
4. Mr. W. H. Poll, Beccles—Drains, Floors, &c. at Harleston.
5. Mr. Jackson—General Repairs at Hempnall
6. Mr. John Smith, Starston—General Repairs at Starston.
7. Mr. Edwin Alexander, Hardwick—General Repairs at Starston.
8. Mrs. Rix. Norwich—Cleaning Pond and Ditches at Thorpe Abbotts.

With regard to Notices Nos. 2 and 3 the Council are using their powers under the “ Housing and Town Planing Act, 1919 ” by doing the work themselves and as soon as completed, will apply to the Magistrates for the recovery of the cost.

Of these 29 cases have been served.

Closing Orders

- 2 cottages on the Common, Wacton.
- 1 „ on the Green, Wacton.
- 2 „ in the Street, Wortwell.
- 1 „ near the Church Hapton.
- 2 „ Hill Cottages, Hapton.
- 2 „ Near Flordon Bridge, Hapton.
- 1 „ Horsingford Watering, Fornsett Mary
- 1 „ Near Church, Hardwick.
- 3 „ Near the Hall, Hardwick.
- 2 „ Norwich Road, Denton.
- 1 „ Church Road, Denton.
- 2 „ Wells Road, Needham.
- 2 „ The Street, Alburgh.
- 1 „ Manor House, Brockdish.
- 1 „ Near Vittoria Farm, Tharston.
- 3 „ The Street, Hempnall.
- 1 „ Common Road, Thorpe Abbots.
- 1 „ High Common, Dickleburgh.

• One of these has been issued and carried out in respect of a delapidated cottage at Wortwell. Demolition
Orders

There are still cases of this in the district, but some of the worst have been dealt with. This is a very difficult problem to deal with, owing to the shortage of houses with sufficient bedroom accommodation. Overcrowding

These are kept in a fairly satisfactory condition. Bake Offices

These are quite satisfactory, and are in the Parishes of Stratton St. Mary, Shimpling, Thorpe Abbots, and one New Licence has been issued to Mr. H. Orford of Roydon, where a slaughter house has been re-built on the Fen. Knacker
Premises

Slaughter
Houses

These are kept in fairly satisfactory condition and Licences have been granted to the following :—

B. Barnes, Tharston. B. Mobbs, Hempnall.
J. Austin, Carleton Rode. C. Nice, Alburgh.

Two New Slaughter Houses have been erected as follows :—

1 at Tharston. 1 at Carleton Rode

Dairies and
Cow Sheds

Several of these have been inspected and improvements to ventilation, paving and drainage have been carried out, and several on request have been limewashed. The following have been registered during the year :—

J. Snelling, Hall Farm, Wacton.
E. Chapman, Elm Tree Farm, Pulham Mary
W. W. Vout, Gillows Willows, Starston.
J. Tubby, Hall Farm, Starston.
H. J. Foulger, Wood Farm, Pulham Market.
T. Pells, Queen's Head, Stratton St. Mary.

Maternity and
Child Welfare

The Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919 provides for supplies of Milk, &c. to cases coming within the meaning of the Order, who are reported to me by the parish representatives and sanctioned by your committee.

Number of cases in which assistance has been given are 31.

Total amount of milk supplied 7,779 pints.

„ cost for Nursing Mothers £90 10s. 9d.

„ „ Young Children £33 15s. 5d.

The County Council repay the cost of the milk supplied.

The appointment of a Salaried Health Visitor was considered at a meeting of the Council in June. The expense was however not deemed justifiable.

New Porch to Farm House at Rushall.

Plans Submitted
and Passed

New Workshop at Harleston.

„ „ Pulham Market.

Additions to House at Carleton Rode.

„ „ Harleston.

„ „ Forncett St. Peter.

New Slaughter House at Carleton Rode.

„ „ „ Tharston.

Children's Play-room at Starston.

Conversion of Wood Hut into Dwelling at
Aslacton.

New Malt Roasting House at Tivetshall St.
Margaret.

The following New Houses have been built which qualify for Government Subsidy :—

1 New House at Forncett St. Peter.

2 New Cottages at Starston.

2 New Bungalows at Stratton St. Mary.

Of the 18 houses reported to be in the course of erection in last year's Report, all have now been completed and are occupied. Other Houses now in course of erection are as follows :—

House
Accommodation
under H.W.C.
Acts

6 Cottages at Dickleburgh almost completed.

8 „ „ Pulham Mary, 4 nearly finished.

6 „ „ Pulham Market.

4 „ „ Stratton St. Michael.

4 „ „ Stratton St. Mary.

4 „ „ Wacton.

4 „ „ Tivetshall St. Mary.

4	„	„	Moulton.
6	„	„	Carleton Rode.
6	„	„	Tacolnestone, nearly finished.
4	„	„	Forncett St. Peter.

Schools

The following Schools have been closed on account of outbreaks of Epidemic diseases :—

Disease.	School.	Period.
Measles	Wortwell	Jan. 6th—16th
	Tharston	„ 14th—24th
	Starston	„ 15th—Feb. 6th
	Long Stratton	„ 21st— „ 13th
	Dickleburgh	„ 28th— „ 20th
	Fritton	„ 18th— „ 13th
	Shelton	„ 29th— „ 13th
	Redenhall	Feb. 2nd— „ 23rd
	Hapton	„ 2nd— „ 27th
	Wacton	„ 12th— „ 27th
	Fersfield	„ 9th— „ 27th
	Needham	Mar. 3rd—9th
	Tasburgh	„ 1st—12th
	Aslacton	„ 8th—26th
	Tibenham	„ 10th—31st
	Tacolnestone	„ 8th—29th
	Great Moulton	„ 15th—April 4th
	Forncett	„ 22nd— „ 4th
	Thorpe Abbotts	„ 26th—Easter
	Carleton Rode	„ 30th—April 16th
	Bunwell	April 12th—15th
	Bressingham	May 1 st —June 11th
	Ashwellthorpe	„ 31st— „ 11th
Influenza	Fundenhall	May 17th—21st

12 Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli have been taken and 1 Sputum examined for Tubercle Bacilli.

School children at Brockdish were systematically examined and some carriers found.

Special Inspections were undertaken at Denton and Tibenham for Notifiable Diseases.

I hereunder give the comparative table of Notifiable Diseases for the last 6 years,

	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920
Diphtheria	1	3	14	3	30	1
Enteric Fever	0	0	2	2	0	0
Erysipelas	10	4	2	6	3	4
Puerperal Fever	1	0	1	0	0	1
Scarlet Fever	79	4	7	8	6	7
Pulmonary						
Tuberculosis	10	12	12	9	19	15
	101	23	38	28	58	28

Of the Mortality of Notifiable Diseases:—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis—14 deaths.

Carleton Rode 1.	Scole 1.
Harleston 2.	Shimpling 1.
Needham 1.	Tasburgh 2.
Pulham Mary 2.	Tivetshall 1.
Redenhall 1.	Union 1.
Hempnall 1.	

Other forms of Tuberculosis—3 deaths.

Dickleburgh, Hempnall. Winfarthing.

Pneumonia—7 deaths.

Bressingham 2.	Moulton 1.
Carleton Rode 1.	Redenhall 1.
Harleston 1.	Roydon 1.

Of other Infectious Diseases :—

· Influenza—No deaths.

Whooping Cough—2 deaths at Pulham Mary

Of Notifiable Diseases I record :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis 15 at—

Bunwell 1.	Scole 1.
Carleton Rode 2.	Tasburgh 2.
Dickleburgh 1.	Thorpe Abbots 1.
Harleston 3.	Union 1.
Needham 1.	Winfarthing 1.
Pulham Mary 1.	

Scarlet Fever 7, at—

Bressingham 1.	Earsham 1.
Denton 4.	Pulham 1.

Pneumonia 6, at—

Denton 1.	Starston 2.
Moulton 1.	Pulham Mary 1.
Redenhall 1.	

Diphtheria—I case at Tasburgh.

Anterior Poliomyelitis—I case at Hapton.

Special attention might here be drawn to the fact that the Council supply Diphtheria Antitoxin free of charge on application to the Medical Officer of Health.

The origin of the disease in the case of Anterior Poliomyelitis was not determinable.

New Notifiable Diseases are—

Acute Encephalitis Lethargica.

Acute Polioencephalitis.

The Measles Notification Order has been rescinded

Among the Notifications of Malaria there is no case which is not a definite recurrent attack, the primary disease having been contracted abroad.

Of Epidemics not coming under the Notifiable Diseases have occurred—

Measles—in January at Tharston, Wortwell, Bressingham, Dickleburgh, Redenhall, Long Stratton, Scole, Tivetshall, Shelton, Morningthorpe.

In February at Starston, Wacton, Brockdish, Tivetshall, Tasburgh, Moulton, Rushall, Tibenham, Tacolnestone.

In March at Carleton Rode and Bunwell.

In May at Fundenhall and Hempnall.

These have been carried out as under :—

Disinfections

For Scarlet Fever.

1 at Gissing. 1 at Earsham.

1 „ Carleton Rode. 1 „ Bressingham.

3 „ Denton.

For Tuberculosis.

1 at Harleston.

Totals 8.

The Number of Births registered in the district **Births** is 454 and the Birth-rate 16.53. This is approximately

50% increase upon last year's figures. I here give the comparative table for the last six years.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1915	186	187	373
1916	163	170	333
1917	165	142	307
1918	164	145	309
1919	156	153	309
1920	239	215	454

Infant Welfare
Centre

It is in my opinion no possibility of an effective centre for this purpose as the District is so scattered. A few weighing centres have however started doing good work, but the attendances are comparatively small.

Of the transferable deaths—

13 occurred in the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

Carcinoma 2.	Pulmonary Abscess 1.
Puerperal Fever 2.	Gall Stones 1.
Otitis Media 1.	Appendicitis 1.
Septicaemia 1.	Protracted Labour 1.
Strangulated Hernia 1.	Tubercular Meningitis 1.
Perforated Gastric Ulcer 1.	

2 at Thorpe Asylum—

Acute Mania 1. Puerperal Septicaemia 1.

1 at Jenny Lind Hospital—

Congenital Pyloric Stenosis.

1 at Ditchingham Hospital—Asthma.

Of the 230 deaths there were Males 116, Females

I give a table of the Cancer Mortalities for the past six years.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1915	13	20	33
1916	9	16	25
1917	11	15	26
1918	12	13	25
1919	9	17	26
1920	8	12	20

Of the 20 cases the distribution of the disease was as follows :—

Liver 3.	Rectum 2.	Thyroid 1.
Breast 2.	Bowel 3.	Vulva 1.
Stomach 2.	Jaw 1.	Femur 1.
Uterus 3.	Ilium 1.	

Of Violent Deaths—6 cases.

Drowning 1.	Falls 2.
Run over by cart 1.	Accidentally shot 2.

Of Suicide—Nil.

No action has been taken by you under the “ Sale of Food and Drugs Act.”

Complimentary copies of Reports have been received from the following districts :—

Eye, East and West Flegg, Hartismere,
Sheringham and Walsingham.

I feel I must again thank Mr. Bowden, your Sanitary Inspector for the prompt manner in which he conducts his duties, and the care and thoroughness he

bestows upon them. A good deal of his time has been taken up over the New Housing Plans in the various parts of the district.

Thanking you, Ladies and Gentlemen for the courtesy you have at all times extended to me,

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

FREDERICK N. H. MAIDMENT,

M.B., B.S. (*Lond.*) F.R.C.S. (*Edin.*) L.R.C.P. &C.

Medical Officer of Health,

Depwade Rural District Council.

TABLE 1.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1920.

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT,

YEAR 1920.

Population estimated to middle of each					
year	...	...	...	...	18,652
Births, Number	...	...	...	...	454
Births, Rate	...	...	...	...	24.34
Total Deaths, Number	...	...	...	...	230
Total Deaths, Rate (on 18,652 population)					12.33
Nett Deaths belonging to District under					
1 year registered		...	...	...	19
Ditto rate per 1,000 nett Births	...			...	41.85

Total population at all ages, 18,652 in 1920.

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) 79,742.

Total families or separate occupiers, 4,869.

TABLE II. CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1920.
DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.							Total cases notified in each locality (e.g. Parish or Ward) of the District.							Total Cases Removed to Hospital.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages†—Years.						Eastern District.	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.										65 and upwards.
Pneumonia ..	6	1	..	3	..	2	..	5	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Dysentery ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Diphtheria (including Membranous-croup)	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Erysipelas ..	4	1	..	..	..	..	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Scarlet fever ..	7	..	2	5	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	
Enteric fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Anthrax ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Puerperal fever ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Poliomyelitis ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	15	1	..	4	7	2	1	10	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	3	..	..	1	2	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Malaria ..	4	..	..	..	1	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	
Totals ..	45	6	2	14	11	8	3	33	..	..	..	..	11	..	1	1	

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING YEAR 1920.

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.	
				All Ages.	
				Males.	Females
All Causes	{	Males	116		
		Females	114		
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	...	...
Small-pox	..	..	..	...	...
Measles	..	..	..	...	...
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	...	...
Whooping-cough	..	..	..	1	1
Diphtheria and Croup	..	..	..	...	...
Influenza	..	..	..	...	...
Erysipelas	..	..	..	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	..	..	..	11	6
Tuberculous Meningitis	..	..	..	2	...
Other tuberculous disease	..	..	..	1	...
Cancer, malignant disease	..	..	..	8	12
Rheumatic Fever	..	..	..	...	1
Meningitis	..	..	..	1	...
Organic Heart Disease	..	..	..	20	27
Bronchitis	..	..	..	1	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	5	1
Other diseases of respiratory organs	..	..	..	...	5
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	..	..	..	...	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	..	..	..	..	1
Cirrhosis of liver	..	..	..	3	1
Alcoholism	..	..	..	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	..	..	4	1
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	...	3
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	..	..	..	...	2
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	..	..	..	7	7
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	..	..	..	6	...
Suicide	..	..	..	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	..	..	..	46	39
Diseases ill-defined or unknown..	..	..	..	...	...
				116	114

TABLE IV.—DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT.

INFANT MORTALITY—1920.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1—2 Weeks	2—3 Weeks.	3—4 Weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1—3 Months	3—6 Months	6—9 Months	9—12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year.
Small-pox										
Chicken-pox										
Measles... ..										
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis(not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	2
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth ...	6	...	1	...	7	...	...	...	...	7
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Other causes	..	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Totals	8	1	3	2	14	3	...	2	...	19

Nett Births in the Year—

Males 239. Females 215.

Illegitimate—Male 10. Female 9.